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What is claimed is:

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1. A method for switching between browser mode and video mode in a standalone CD-ROM system. The method comprising the steps of:

selecting, within the browser mode, a video for playback;

switching from the browser mode to a video mode;

playing the selected video in the video mode; and

returning to the browser mode to enable the user to resume browsing

10 the content of the CD-ROM disk.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the switching step further comprises the steps of:

reserving a portion of a memory;

15 storing a return address in the reserved portion of the memory; and

storing the starting and ending addresses of the video in the reserved portion of the memory.

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3. The method as recited in Claim 2 wherein the video CD-ROM system plays the video from the starting address to the ending address.

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4. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the returning step further comprises the steps of:

reading the return address from the reserved portion of the memory;

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loading a return file corresponding to the return address.

5. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the video is selected by a user in the browser mode.

6. A method for switching between browser and video modes in a standalone video CD-ROM system, the method comprising the steps of:
loading data segment of a browser program into a memory unit to enable a user to browse the content of a CD-ROM disk in the browser mode;
selecting a video to play within the browser mode;
switching from the browser mode to the video mode;
playing the selected video in the video mode; and
returning to the browser mode to enable the user to resume browsing the content of the CD-ROM disk.

7. The method as recited in Claim 6 wherein the switching step further comprises the steps of:
reserving a portion of a memory;
storing a return address in the reserved portion of the memory; and
storing the starting and ending addresses of the video in the reserved portion of the memory.

8. The method as recited in Claim 7 wherein the video CD-ROM system plays the video from the starting address to the ending address.

9. The method as recited in Claim 6 wherein the returning step further comprises the steps of:

reading the return address from the reserved portion of the memory;
5 loading data segment of the browser program: and loading a return file corresponding to the return address.

10. The method as recited in Claim 6 wherein the video is selected by a user in the browser mode.

11. A standalone video CD-ROM system comprising:
a video CD-ROM disk containing a browser program and data including text, graphics, images, audio, and video;
a means for browsing the video CD-ROM disk;
15 a video CD player for playing back the content of the video CD-ROM disk in first and second modes wherein the first mode plays back data excluding video and the second mode plays back video only;
a means for selecting a video to play back; and
a means, responsive to the selecting means, for switching from the first
20 mode to the second mode to play back the video and then back to the first mode.

12. The video CD-ROM system as recited in Claim 11 wherein the first mode is a browser mode and the second mode is a video mode.

13. The video CD-ROM system as recited in Claim 12 wherein the switching means further comprises:

a means for reserving a portion of a memory;

5 a means for storing a return address in the reserved portion of the memory; and

a means for storing the starting and ending addresses of the selected video in the reserved portion of the memory.

10 14. The video CD-ROM system as recited in Claim 13 further comprising the steps of:

reading the return address from the reserved portion of the memory; and loading a return file corresponding to the return address.

15 15. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein the video is selected by a user.

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